



5 More Years in Corrections

Washington State
Department of Corrections
Planning and Research Section
(360) 753-6180

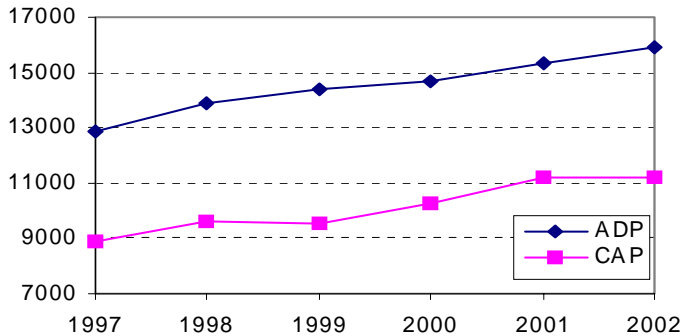


August 2002

5 More Years in Corrections

In 1997, the Planning and Research Section published "5 Years in Corrections", an overview of Washington State Department of Corrections' statistics for Fiscal Years 1991 through 1996. The present report summarizes "5 More Years in Corrections" for Fiscal Years 1997 through 2002.

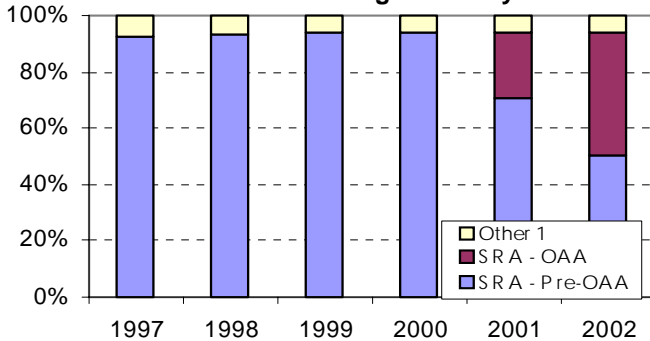
Average Daily Population vs Rated Capacity



INMATE POPULATION

From 1997 to 2002, the average daily population of offenders housed by the Department increased by 24 percent. In previous "5 Years in Corrections" findings, a much more dramatic 38 percent increase was discovered from 1991 to 1996. By 2002, the rated capacity of the facilities had increased by 26 percent.

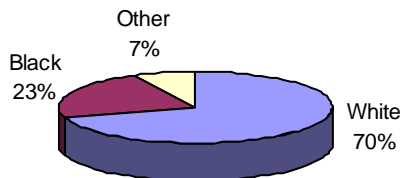
Sentencing Authority



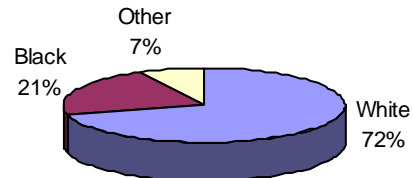
The authority over sentences has changed since the Offender Accountability Act (OAA) was implemented in Fiscal Year 2001 (see page 5). By the end of the Fiscal Year, about 24 percent of the offenders incarcerated had been sentenced under OAA. This number increased to 44 percent by Fiscal Year 2002. The number of Parole Board cases has remained stable at 6 or 7 percent over the last five years.¹

The racial distribution of the inmate population remained stable over the past five years. There were approximately 72 percent whites, 21 percent blacks, and 7 percent of other races.

Fiscal Year 1997

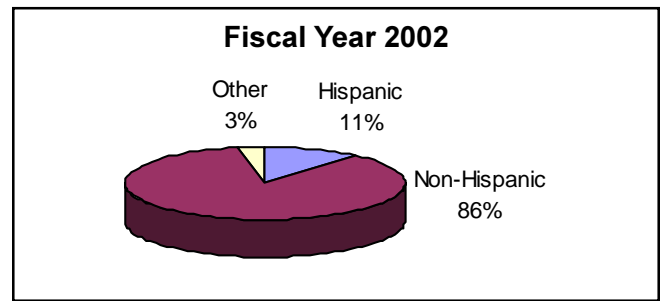
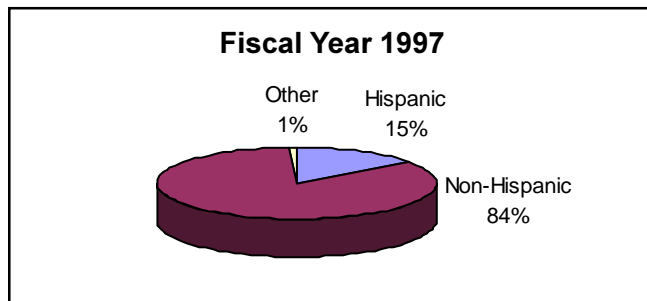


Fiscal Year 2002

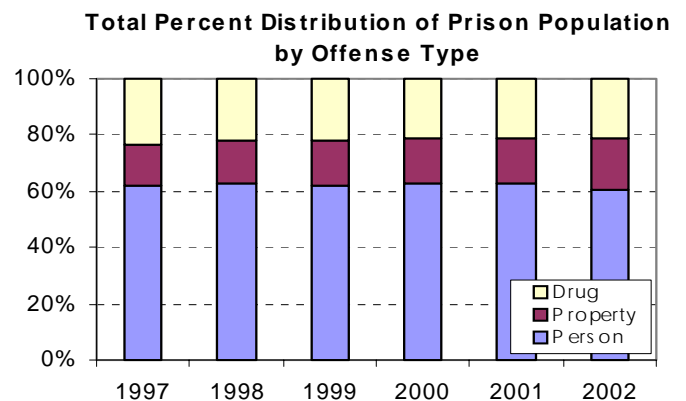
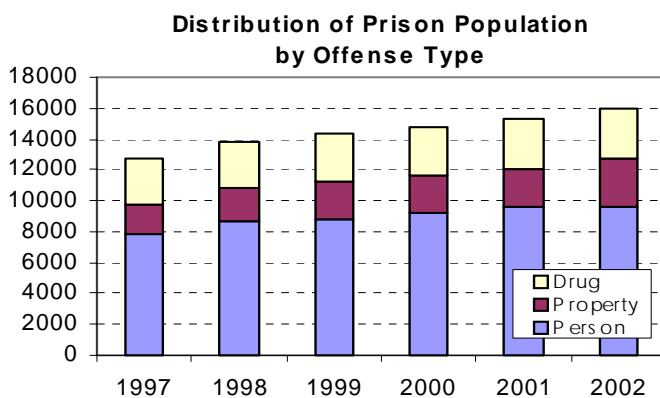


¹ The Other category includes Parole Board cases and offenders who have been sentenced under both the Board and SRA.

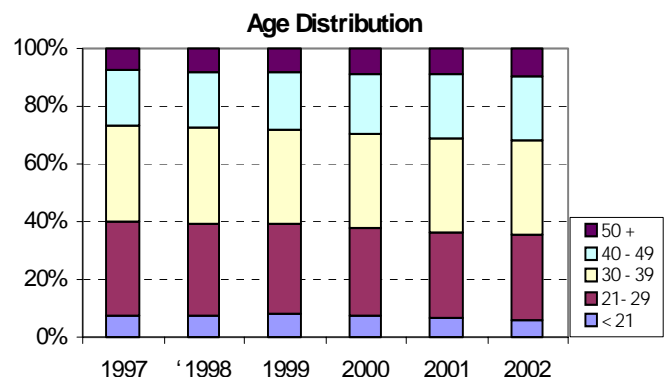
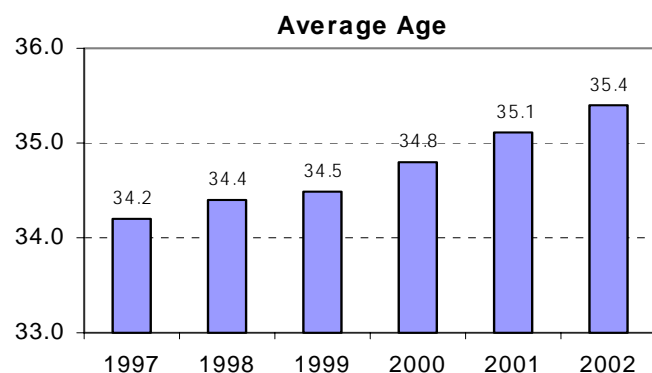
The Hispanic population decreased to 11 percent in 2002 from 15 percent in 1997. In previous “5 Years in Corrections” findings, the Hispanic population was 15 percent in both 1991 and 1996.

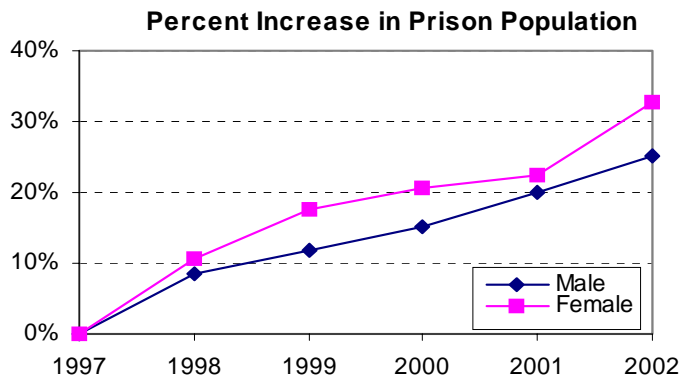


By 2002, offenders who were being housed for committing person crimes decreased 2 percent making up 60 percent of the entire population. The number of property offenders increased by 4 percent totaling 19 percent of the population. Finally, the number of drug offenders decreased from 24 percent in 1997 to 21 percent by 2002.



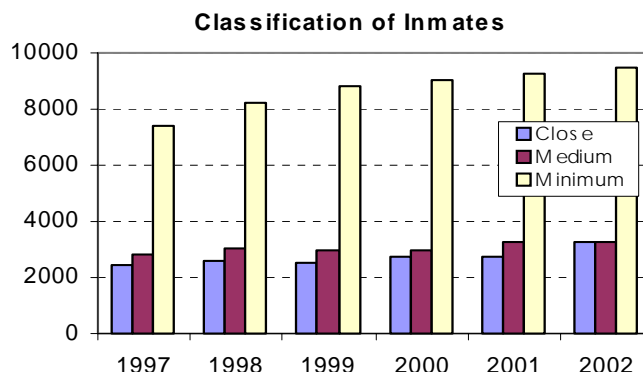
In the past five years, the average age of the prison population has increased by 1.2 years. This is a continuing trend from previous “5 Years in Corrections” findings, which indicates a slight, however, less dramatic increase in the age of the prison population.





Current trends indicate that the female population is still increasing at a higher rate than the male population. From 1991 to 1996, the female population increased by 69 percent. New results indicate a 33 percent increase in the female population from 1997 to 2002 compared to a 25 percent increase for males.

The classification of offenders has remained stable over the last five fiscal years relative to the general increase in population. The majority of offenders housed by the Department are minimum custody offenders.

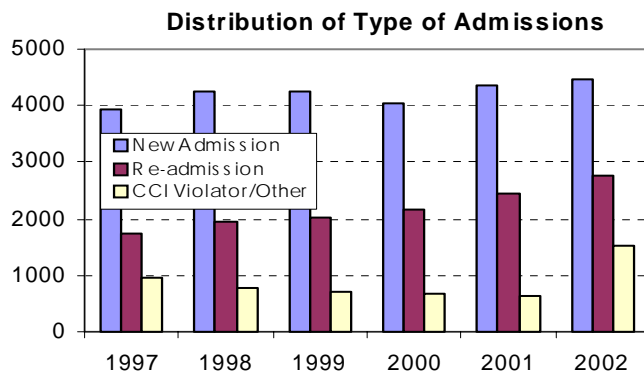
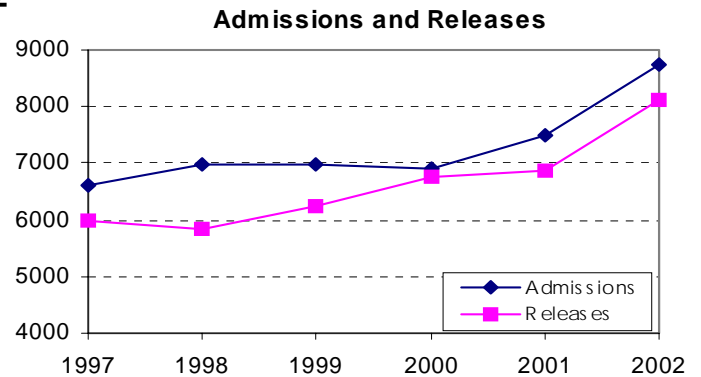


Cost is measured as the average cost to incarcerate an offender per fiscal year. The previous "5 Years in Corrections" found a 9 percent increase in the average cost of incarceration between Fiscal Years 1991 and 1996. Current findings show that costs have stabilized, with only a 1 percent increase from 1997 to 2001.²

² Cost of incarceration data was not available for fiscal year 2002 at the time this report was written.

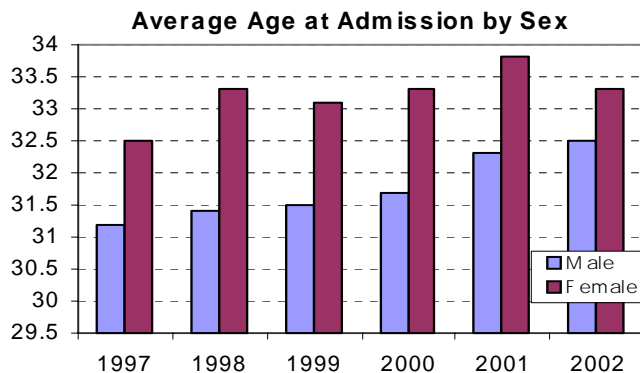
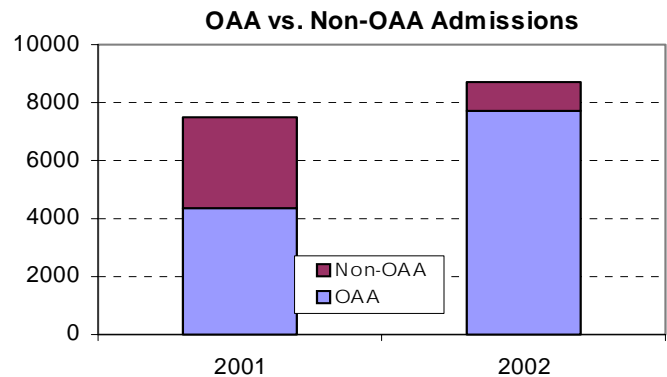
PRISON ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

From 1997 to 2002, the number of admissions to prison has increased by 32 percent. As demonstrated by the graph, there are fewer releases from prison in a fiscal year than admissions to prison, thus contributing to the steady growth in the prison population.



The number of new admissions to prison has decreased in the past five years, mirroring a similar trend found from 1991 to 1996. In addition, the number of offenders who are readmitting to prison has increased. CCI violator and other admissions decreased until Fiscal Year 2001, but have increased in the last year.

The number of OAA admissions to prison has increased from 58 percent in Fiscal Year 2001 to 88 percent in Fiscal Year 2002.

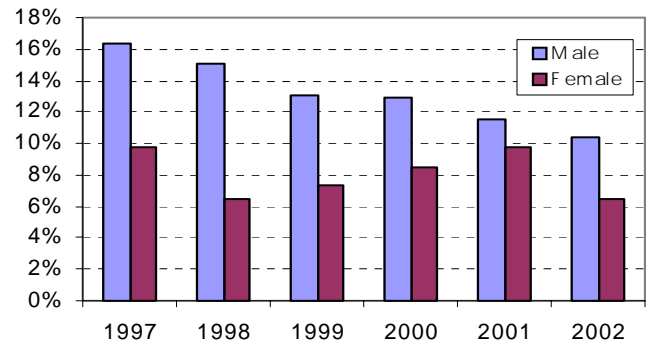


The average age of females who enter prison is higher than the average age of males who enter prison. Previous findings also indicate that females are older than males when entering prison.

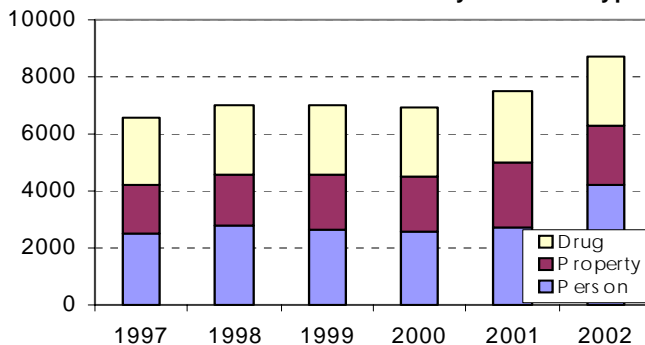
¹ Cost of incarceration data was not available for fiscal year 2002 at the time this report was written.

Between 1991 and 1996 the Hispanic male population was as high as 20 percent. The proportion of Hispanic males who admitted to prison between 1997 to 2002 decreased to 10 percent. Results of previous findings indicate that the proportion of Hispanic females has also decreased from as high as 11 percent to as low as 6 percent in the last five fiscal years.

Percent Hispanic Origin at Admission by Sex



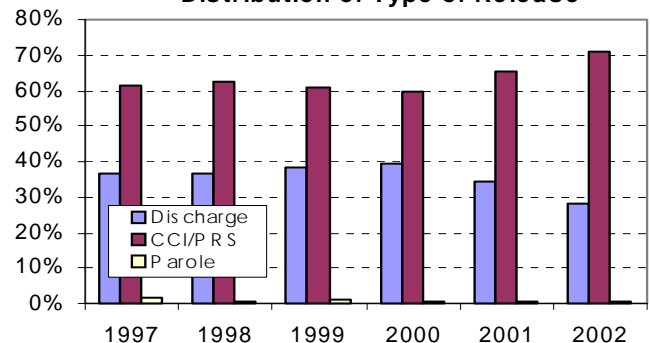
Distribution of Admissions by Offense Type



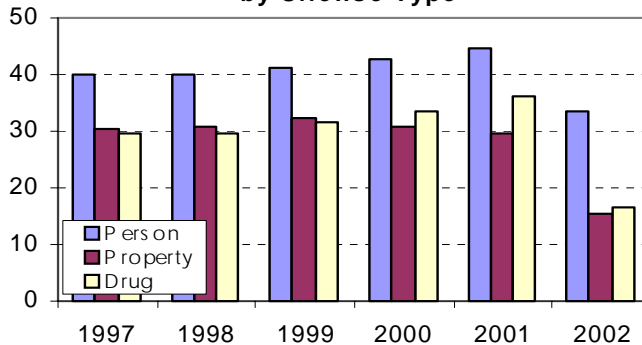
The number of offenders who were admitted to prison for person crimes rose from 38 percent of the total admissions in 1997 to 49 percent in 2002. The number of drug offender admissions decreased from 36 percent in 1997 to 28 percent of the total admissions in 2002.

Offenders who discharge from prison, or release without face-to-face supervision requirements, decreased to 28 percent in 2002. The percent of offenders who were released to post-prison supervision increased to 71 percent. Consistent with the declining number of inmates under the jurisdiction of the Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board, the number of inmates releasing to parole also decreased.

Distribution of Type of Release



Average Length of Stay in Months by Offense Type

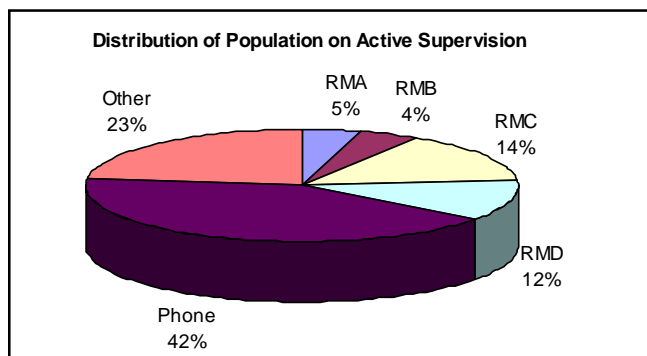


The average length of stay for all offense types increased until Fiscal Year 2001. In 2002, the average length of stay for property and drug offenders decreased by about half. The reason for the drop in sentence length for property and drug offenders was the increased use of Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA).

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

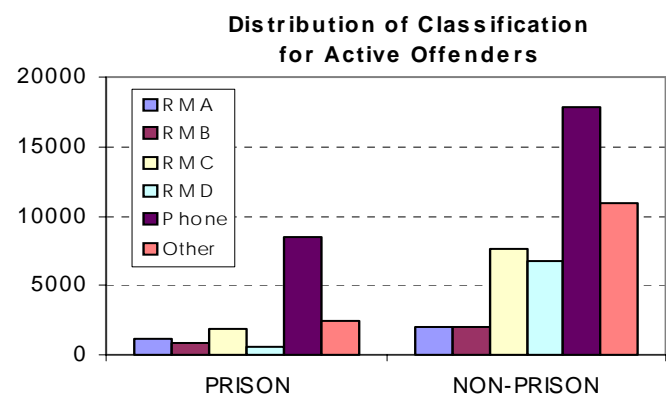
In July 2000, the Department of Corrections' way of business was changed with the enactment of the Offender Accountability Act (OAA). OAA strengthened DOC's authority over offenders in the community by allowing the Department, rather than the court, to set community custody conditions and sanction violators. The new classification system, the Risk Management Identification (RMI) system, combines two concepts: risk to re-offend and harm done. The RMI system places offenders into one of four supervision categories: RMA, RMB, RMC, or RMD. The RMA category is the highest risk and harm done, while the RMD category is the lowest risk offenders. Resources are to be distributed to offenders in higher classification categories.

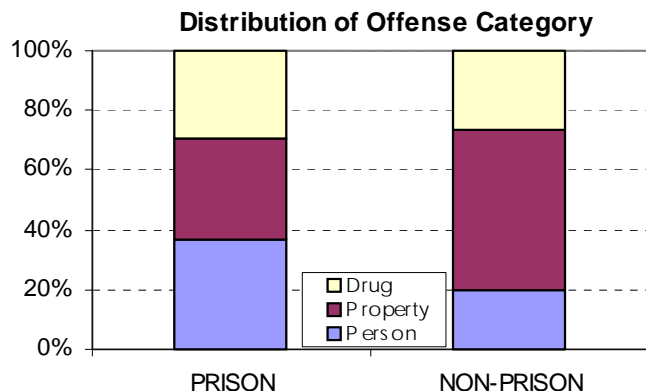
At the end of Fiscal Year 2002, there were 93,330 offenders with open field causes. Thirty-two percent of the population was inactive, meaning they had either absconded, were deported, or the court or parole board put them on an inactive status. Of the 62,864 offenders that were on active supervision, 36 percent had OAA sentences



Twenty-three percent of the offenders with active supervision were an RMA, RMB, RMC, or RMD, the type of supervision requiring the most contact between the offender and the community corrections officer (CCO). Fifty-two percent of the active offender population was supervised through phone contact, or RMD and monetary supervision. The remaining twenty-three percent were either under the old classification system or unclassified under the new system.

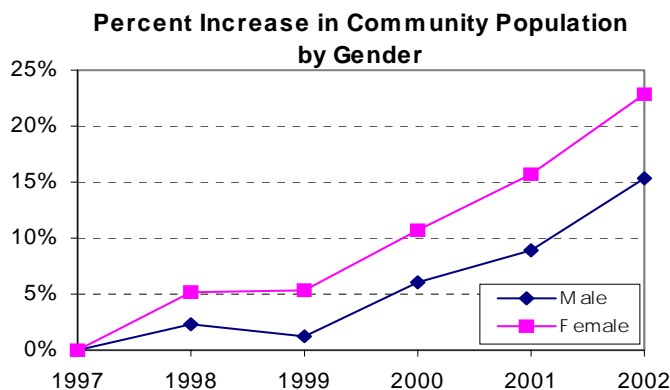
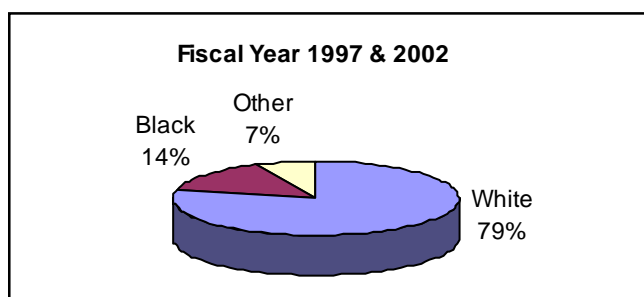
About 75 percent of offenders with active cases did not receive a prison sentence, but had community supervision after local jail confinement. The remaining 25 percent were released to supervision after serving their sentence in prison. Offenders who were required to keep in phone contact with their CCO were the most prevalent for both prison releases and non-prison releases.





The distribution of offense type for offenders who were released from prison and placed on supervision was about one-third for each offense type. The majority of offenders who did not serve time in prison before community supervision, however, were property offenders.

The racial distribution of the community corrections population has remained very stable over the last five fiscal years. In both fiscal years 1997 and 2002, there were 79 percent whites, 14 percent blacks, and 7 percent of other races.



Similar to the prison population trend, the community corrections female population increased at a faster rate than the males. From Fiscal Year 1997 to 2002, the female population increased by 23 percent compared to a 15 percent increase for males. Also similar to the prison population trends, this increase has dropped off from a 64 percent increase between Fiscal Year 1991 and 1996.

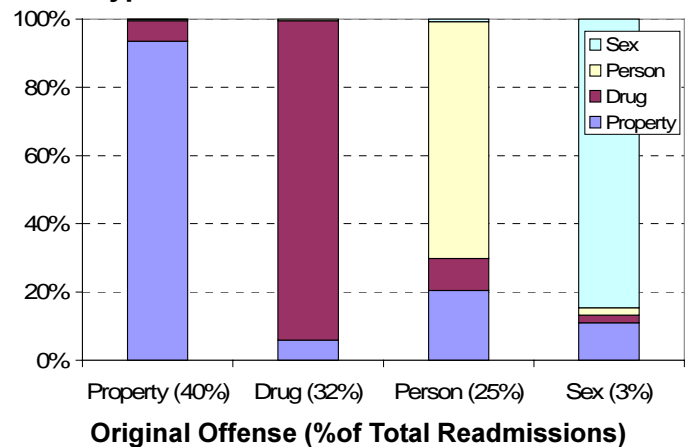
5 More Years in Corrections: Admissions to Prison Addendum

In Fiscal Year 2002, just over half of the admissions to prison were new admissions, about one-third were offenders who were readmitted for a new offense, and the remaining 17 percent were community supervision violators. This addendum focuses on offenders who were readmitted to prison for a new offense, and the community supervision violators.

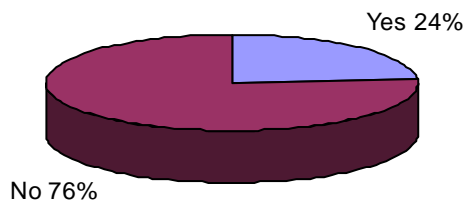
READMISSIONS

The majority of offenders who readmitted to prison in FY02 came back for the same offense type as the original crime. Ninety-four percent of all property and drug offenders who readmitted to prison returned for the same offense type. Sixty-nine percent of person offenders returned for a person offense, and eighty-five percent of sex offenders readmitted for a sex offense.

Original Offense Type by Readmission Offense Type for FY02 Readmissions to Prison



FY02 Readmissions to Prison by Supervision Status



The majority of offenders who readmitted to prison in Fiscal Year 2002 were not on community supervision at the time of their new offense.

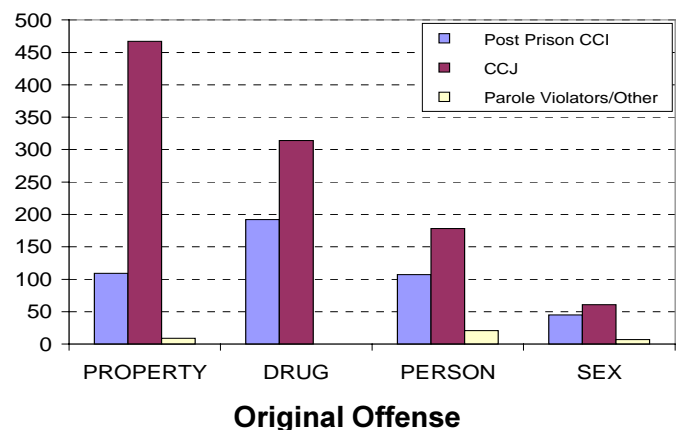
¹ The Other category includes Parole Board cases and offenders who have been sentenced under both the Board and SRA.

VIOLATORS

There are several different types of community supervision. Community Custody Inmates (CCI) are offenders who serve a portion of their sentence in prison then serve the remainder of their sentence in the community. Community Custody Jail offenders are offenders who are sentenced to jail and to Community Custody and do not serve a prison sentence. Offenders on Parole are those who are under the jurisdiction of the Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board (prior to the current Sentencing Reform Act) and are ordered to follow board conditions while on supervision.

In Fiscal Year 2002, about 17 percent of the admissions to prison were community custody violators.¹ Approximately 68 percent of the violators who admitted to prison were CCJ's and 30 percent were CCI's. Property offenders made up most of the violators followed by drug offenders, person offenders, and sex offenders.

Original Offense Type for Community Custody Violators who Admitted to Prison in FY02



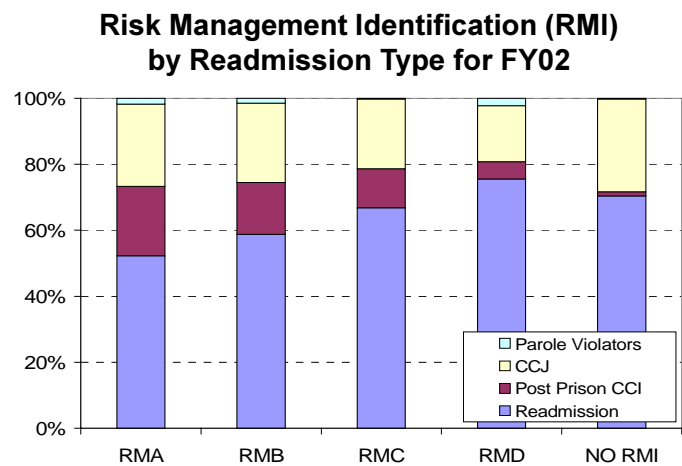
Violation Type* Resulting in Admission to Prison		
Violation Type	CCI	CCJ
Substance related	24	13
Escape/abscond	22	42
Failure to follow CCO instructions	19	18
Failure in Treatment or counseling	15	09
Unapproved movement	05	07
Violation of previous sanction	05	04
Unapproved contact/living	04	03
Failure to comply with prohibitions	04	02
Failure to do work, school, etc.	02	02
Total Percent	100	100
* Violation Data is not available for parole violators.		

In Fiscal Year 2002, substance related violations were the number one type of violation resulting in an admission to prison for CCI's.¹ The number one violation resulting in an admission to prison for CCJ's, however, was escaping or absconding from supervision.

¹ Offense type for violators includes only the most current offense for which an offender was on community custody.

² Multiple violations may be adjudicated at once, however only the first violation that appears in OBTS is counted here.

About one-third of the readmissions to prison were offenders classified as RMD followed by offenders who were not yet classified.¹ This is consistent with RMI policy implementation. CCJ admissions to prison had the highest percent of offenders unclassified.



¹ Data available for the RMI is based upon an offender's current classification as opposed to their classification at release. In addition, the RMI was not being used in the prisons until December 2001, a possible explanation for many unclassified offenders.